

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DECEMBER 19, 2011**

The State Board of Education met via telephone conference call at 11:00 a.m., CST, on December 19, 2011.

**Present..... 9                      Absent.....0**

**Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair**  
**Mr. Jim Ayers**  
**Mr. Mike Edwards**  
**Ms. Vernita Justice**  
**Ms. Carolyn Pearre**  
**Mr. Lonnie Roberts**  
**Dr. Jean Anne Rogers**  
**Ms. Teresa Sloyan**  
**Dr. Melvin Wright**  
**Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio**

**Others Present**

**Dr. Gary Nixon, State Board of Education (SBE)**  
**Dr. David Sevier, SBE**  
**Mr. Art Fuller, SBE**  
**Ms. Dannelle Walker, SBE**  
**Ms. Phyllis Childress, SBE**  
**Commissioner Kevin Huffman, Department of Education (DOE)**  
**Mr. Stephen Smith, DOE**  
**Mr. Rich Haglund, DOE**

**Chairman Rolston** called the meeting to order.

**I.      Consent Items**

**A.      *Adoption of Agenda***

**ACTION:**     **Dr. Rogers** moved approval. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**II.     Action Items (First Reading)**

**A.      *Charter School Appeal***

**Ms. Dannelle Walker**, State Board of Education, began by explaining the process for charter schools.

**Dr. Gary Nixon**, State Board of Education, presented details of the appeal and explained the recommendation of the Board to uphold the Blount County denial of Hope Academy.

**Vice Chair Pearre** stated that there seemed to be a lack of clear understanding of what Blount County needed from Hope Academy.

**Mr. Rich Haglund**, Director of Charter Schools in the Department of Education, stated that he had made himself available to Hope Academy and that all materials needed for the application were on the Department of Education's website.

**Mr. Wright** asked if Hope Academy could reapply.

**Dr. Nixon** stated that there is nothing to prevent Hope Academy from reapplying and would encourage them to do so.

**Mr. Haglund** stated that charter schools have to apply a year prior to opening so Hope Academy would have to reapply in 2012 for a 2013 opening.

**Chairman Rolston** stated that he felt the application was not strong.

**Mr. Edwards** stated that if there is local opposition to a charter school opening and all the evaluators are employees of the district, it would be difficult for anyone to go against the district.

**Mr. Haglund** stated that districts can have someone outside the system to evaluate the applications.

**Dr. Nixon** stated that irrespective of local findings, he felt that the application submitted by Hope Academy was weak and that the denial should be upheld.

**ACTION:** **Mr. Wright** moved that the denial of Hope Academy's application be upheld. **Ms. Sloyan** seconded and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Jim Ayers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mike Edwards</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Vernita Justice</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Carolyn Pearre</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Lonnie Roberts</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Jean Anne Rogers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Fielding Rolston</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Teresa Sloyan</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melvin Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion passed unanimously.

**Chairman Rolston** thanked members for being available to participate in the meeting by telephone. The meeting was adjourned with next meeting dates being January 27, 2012.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_